



Quick Guide for Attending Worship

Summary

As we step back into in-person worship at Bethel, our Leadership Team has put together a comprehensive safety plan based on directives from the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) and in consultation with The Minnesota South District - LCMS (District).

But, what does this mean for YOU - and what is Bethel asking you to do - as you come back to Bethel?

This “Quick Guide” is intended to give you simple instructions for how to step back into Bethel going forward.

2or3 Worship Media - Continued Providing of...

Just a reminder - Bethel will continue to pre-record worship and make it available via the 2or3 Worship Media email packets we have been using during the stay-at-home time period.

Whether your needs are due to - vacation, illness, a reluctance to return to Bethel during the pandemic, or for any other reason - Bethel desires to continue giving you options for staying connected actively to worship and gatherings at the church.

If you have not yet signed up for 2or3 Worship Media - and you wish to begin receiving these weekly emails - please visit Bethel’s website - www.bethelstpaul.com

Before You Arrive at Bethel

- 1) ***Self-Check for Illness...*** please stay home/do not attend if you or a member of your family are displaying signs of COVID-19, including symptoms like:
 - fever [> 100.4 F],
 - cough
 - shortness of breath
 - chills
 - headache
 - muscle pain
 - sore throat
 - loss of taste or smell
 - nausea, vomiting or diarrhea

- 2) ***At-Risk Persons...*** for those with pre-existing health conditions and/or in certain age groups - know the risks and choose wisely as to whether to attend. Again, all Sunday services will continue to be provided via 2or3 Worship Media.

- 3) ***Bring a Mask & PPE...*** those attending worship and gatherings are strongly encouraged to provide and wear any mask and/or personal protective equipment (PPE) desired. Should you not have these items after you arrive, Bethel will have a limited number of masks and gloves available for your use.

- 4) ***Bring Water, Coffee & Desired Refreshments - Coffee Fellowship & Water Coolers Suspended...*** for the time being, Bethel will not be offering after-worship refreshments (e.g., coffee, treats, etc.), nor will water coolers be available for use (although, bottled water will be available as a courtesy). Attendees are welcomed and encouraged to provide any personal refreshments desired (covered containers for beverages, please) while at Bethel.

Arriving at Bethel - Worship in Sanctuary

- 1) ***Social Distancing...*** please maintain 6 feet of distance between yourself and/or your family group and others while at Bethel.

- 2) ***Pre-Service Visiting...*** weather permitting, please visit with Bethel friends outside of the building. If preferred and/or necessary, please observe social distancing particularly when inside the building.

- 3) **Enter via NE Doors** [i.e., corner of Wheelock/Maywood]...per MDH guidelines, Bethel will be following a one-way pattern of entry to/exit from the building. Please enter the building via the NE doors.
 - a) For those members/visitors *requiring use of the ramp*...please enter the building via the SE doors [i.e., adjacent to the south parking lot].

- 4) **Doors Propped Open**...weather permitting, doors will be propped open to allow for contactless entry. If you need to open the door, please sanitize hands prior to doing so.

- 5) **Wash Hands Often**...using soap-and-water or hand sanitizer (offered at multiple places throughout the building).

- 6) **Worship Bulletins & Screens**...as usual, Bethel will provide a host of bulletins in different formats (e.g., large print, complete service, abbreviated service) for your use. Complete liturgy will also be offered on screens throughout the Sanctuary.

- 7) **Seating/Pews**...due to MDH social distancing guidelines, pew/seating access will be limited to those identified. Please only sit in those spots designated. Please observe 6 feet of separation between family groups and/or individual attendees. Family groups are welcome to sit as close to each other as desired.

- 8) **Restrooms**...due to MDH social distancing guidelines, restroom use will be limited to two individuals or one family at a time.
 - a) ...those waiting to use the restroom are asked to queue along the wall in the upstairs hallway, using the social distancing guides marked on the floor

 - b) ...for those using private stalls, please operate the locking mechanism with tissue (discard tissue in provided wastebasket)

Arriving at Bethel - Worship Downstairs/Fellowship Hall

During Sundays when it is desirable to host worship downstairs/Fellowship Hall, all of the above protocols will be followed in addition to and/or with the following exceptions...

- 1) ***Enter via NE Doors*** [i.e., corner of Wheelock/Maywood]...per MDH guidelines, Bethel will be following a one-way pattern of entry to/exit from the building. Please enter the building via the NE doors.

Attendees are asked to enter the Fellowship Hall via the NE stairway, while maintaining appropriate social distancing going down the stairs.

For those members/visitors *requiring use of the ramp*...please enter the building via the SE doors [i.e., adjacent to the south parking lot] and enter the Fellowship Hall via the SE entrance.

- 2) ***Seating***...please arrange your chair so as to maintain appropriate social distancing. While family groups may sit together at tables and/or in closer groups of chairs - please maintain at least 6 feet of distance between yourselves and other Bethel attendees.
- 3) ***Restrooms***...due to MDH social distancing guidelines, restroom use will be limited to one individual or one family group at a time.
 - a) ...those waiting to use the restroom are asked to queue along the wall leading into the stairwell, using the social distancing guides marked on the floor
 - b) ...for those using private stalls, please operate the locking mechanism with tissue (discard tissue in provided wastebasket)

Arriving at Bethel - Worship Outdoors

During Sundays when it is desirable to host worship outdoors, all of the above protocols will be followed in addition to and/or with the following exceptions...

- 1) ***Seating...*** please arrange your chair so as to maintain appropriate social distancing. While family groups may sit together at tables and/or in closer groups of chairs - please maintain at least 6 feet of distance between yourselves and other Bethel attendees.
- 2) ***Restrooms...*** please use upstairs bathrooms and follow protocols listed above.

All Bethel Worship Venues

- 1) ***Air Flow...*** weather permitting, outside doors and windows will remain open to allow for proper air circulation. Please do not close windows or doors without first consulting with staff.
- 2) ***Singing...*** will be celebrated in limited fashion (at first) and increased as able in consultation with MDH guidelines. Please follow the pastor's instructions during worship.
- 3) ***Offering...*** will be received via plates available as you enter the Sanctuary. While we will not be passing plates during the worship service, we will commit weekly gifts to God's use and will. As always, Bethel welcomes and is grateful for gifts/offerings made via online means.
- 4) ***"Kid Zone"...*** should parents need or wish to give their young children time away from the main space, while worship is underway - they are welcome to use the former WaterLife Lounge (i.e., the area with chairs just above the NW stairwell). Parents must remain with their children at all times.

Celebration & Reception of Holy Communion

While the following protocols will be updated/amended as time continues, these will guide Bethel's practice during our restart of in-person worship...

- 1) ***Follow Usher Invitation...*** to go up to receive the elements. Stay in your seat as long as possible to avoid crowding the center aisle.

- 2) ***Element Distribution...***the bread and wine will be distributed via Intinction, thus allowing for the use of Common Cup, while minimizing contact with bread and wine for other attendees.
 - a) ...the Presiding Pastor will sanitize hands, wear glove(s) and mask for distribution of elements
 - b) ...the Presiding Pastor will dip the bread into the wine and offer both elements to recipient
 - c) ...worshippers will offer outstretched hands to receive both elements at the same time
 - d) ...juice will be available for those wishing, by notifying Presiding Pastor
 - e) ...sanitizer and/or wipes will be available for attendees to clean hands after receiving elements
 - f) ...children/those not receiving elements will be offered a verbal blessing

- 3) ***Return to Pews or Chairs...***via the side aisles (Sanctuary) and/or via Usher direction (downstairs/outside)

After Worship - Sanctuary & Downstairs/Fellowship Hall

- 1) ***Exit via SE Doors*** [i.e., adjacent to south parking lot]...as Bethel follows MDH guidelines for one-way entry/exit from the building, attendees will be ushered out of the Sanctuary or Fellowship Hall via the SE door, down the hall past Pastor Fofana's office (in the case of Sanctuary venue) and will exit the building via the SE building doors. Those requiring use of the ramp are welcome to use it.

- 2) ***After-Worship Visiting...***weather permitting, please visit with Bethel friends outside of the building. Please observe social distancing particularly when inside the building.

- 3) ***After Worship Bible Study...***will continue to be postponed until further notice. Bethel members and visitors are encouraged to participate in Small Groups (particularly those offered via Zoom).

THANK YOU for your patience and faithfulness during these unprecedented days! Bethel's Leadership Team and pastors are excited to be stepping back into Bethel to worship and praise the Father, Son and His Holy Spirit!